

Measles

Sample Letter: Notice to school (or other facility) officials of measles

(Date)

To: District Superintendents, and Public School Principals
Directors of Private Schools

From: (name)
(County) County Health Officer

There has been at least one case of measles (also known as rubeola, red measles, or ten-day measles) reported in the _____ (school district, county). Measles can be a very serious disease complicated by pneumonia, encephalitis, and/or death. The main purpose of responding to a measles outbreak is to prevent transmission to susceptible persons by isolating those who are infectious, offering vaccination to susceptible persons, and excluding those susceptible students and staff from school to prevent the further spread of disease. It is important that together we make all reasonable efforts to halt this disease.

Therefore, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 120325-120380, Education Code Section 49076(4) and California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Sections 2501 and 6060, I am ordering that the following actions be taken in the school(s) within your jurisdiction as identified by my staff:

- A. Exclude any child or staff with a rash illness, with or without fever. If evaluation determines that the illness is measles, then the child or staff must be excluded from school until cleared by a healthcare provider.
- B. Send out a parental notification letter from the school on _____ (date).
- C. Refer for vaccination any student or staff who believes herself/himself to be susceptible (no record of vaccination or disease).
- D. Audit pupils' school immunization records and exclude from school:
 - Pupils with legally inadequate measles immunization records (no record or the record does not include the month and year of immunization).
 - Pupils with personal beliefs exemptions or medical exemptions to immunization and without documentation from a physician of having had measles.
 Pupils who are excluded must remain out of school until the date specified by the Local Health Officer.
- E. Inform teachers and other staff of the program to exclude persons with rash and susceptible persons and instruct them, that excluded pupils are not to be readmitted to the school campus until they are no longer infectious or until they have complied with school immunization requirements. New immunization information obtained on any pupil must be recorded in his/her California School Immunization Record (PM 286).

Pupils may avoid exclusion or be readmitted by doing ONE of the following:

- Present to the school a record of two measles immunizations received after the first birthday, including the month and year that the vaccine was given. For immunization given during the month of the first birthday the exact day is needed.
- Present to the school a record of a blood test showing immunity to measles.
- Present a doctor's diagnosis of prior measles disease.
- Obtain the measles vaccine and bring a written record of immunization from the physician or agency performing the immunization to the school authorities.

F. Any knowledge of new suspect cases should be reported by you or the school staff immediately to the _____ (county) health department at _____ (telephone number).

I ask that you or appropriate members of your staff meet with my staff when they contact you, in order to work out the procedural details for auditing pupil records, and notifying and following up on pupils in need of immunization or exclusion from school.

We are aware of the fact that schools are very busy places. Our goal is to contain this outbreak, preventing measles illness, and its complications, with the least possible disruption of the educational process and consuming the least possible amount of school staff time.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation. If you have, questions or concerns please contact _____ (name), in our office at _____ (telephone number).

Thank you.